

John C. Lentz, Pastor

Clover Reuter Beal, Associate Pastor

Discovering God's call, celebrating the Spirit's presence
Witnessing to Christ's transformative power

Forest Hill Church

The Tower

March 2009

In the January edition of *Sojourner's Magazine*, a variety of individuals from a wide range of perspectives and professions wrote brief messages to President Obama. I was particularly agitated by the prayer Shane Claiborne wrote. Claiborne is a founding partner of "The Simple Way," an intentional Christian community in the Kensington neighborhood of Philadelphia.

God of love, grace, and hope, thank you for creating a perfect world. Forgive us for the mess we have made of it. Forgive us for the groaning of creation, for the millions who die of hunger and curable diseases, for warehousing people in prisons and using them for labor, for the scandal of billions wasted in war, for an economy that mirrors the seven deadly sins, for the violence and greed in our own hearts. Save us from ourselves.

Give us courage to bless the poor in the world that blesses the middle class, to bless the meek in a world that admires aggression, to bless the hungry in a world that feeds the already fed, to bless the merciful in a world that shows no mercy on evildoers, to bless the pure in heart in a world of clutter and noise, to bless the peacemakers in a world that baptizes bombs.

Give us imagination that we might not conform to the patterns of this world, that we might shatter indifference and interrupt injustice with grace, that we might choose the cross over the sword, that we

might be shrewd as serpents and as innocent as doves, that we might consider the lilies and sparrows as they shame Wall Street's splendor, that we might choose the dream of God over the dreams of nations, that we might cling to the God who so loved the world, not just America, that we might allow our Jesus to change America rather than America to change our Jesus.

It is always the role of faithful people to speak truth to power and yearn to follow the gospel. It isn't always easy, or comfortable. However, Claiborne's prayer speaks to a gospel truth, a Jesus truth that we all need to ponder.

Be Blessed to be a Blessing,

John

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Dear friends,

I write this note only two hours before departure for our pilgrimage to Israel/Palestine!

As we embark on our journey, I am reminded that each of us is on our own journey, a pilgrimage, through life each and every day. If we walk each day with the kind of attentiveness and awareness and reverence that we pilgrims are intending to walk through the Holy Land, each of us will be blessed by our own lives. We will take in the whole of our lives, the joys and the pains, in new ways. Gentle love might seep into our hearts with our fresh view.

As we embark into our Lenten journey, may you listen to all of your life—past, present and future. I offer you a prayer by author Macrina Wiederkehr, *Behold Your Life*, for your journey.

Blessings On Your Journey

As you begin your pilgrim journey
 may your heart be open to surprise.
 With reverence, gratitude, and acceptance
 may you behold your life each day.
 On every step along the way
 may hidden goodness come to meet you.
 In meditating on your memories
 may courage be your companion.
 As your life-stories rise up to greet you
 may you welcome them home with love.
 On every step of your pilgrimage
 may you find new grace for living.
 From unexpected places in your life
 may blessings rise up to anoint you.
 As you walk the memory road
 may it become a path of transformation.
 As you look upon your wounds
 may you know the joy of healing.
 In claiming the beauty of your life
 may you recognize the One
 in whose image you are created.
 In moving beyond the wounds
 may you be able to take up your life
 and go on with your living.
 Blessings on your journey!

Clover

Lent 2009

On Wednesdays, March 4 and 18, and Wednesday, April 1, we will be meeting in Fellowship Hall for a light dinner followed by worship shaped by Taizé and Iona. Childcare will be provided. On Thursday, April 9, we will gather for our traditional Maundy Thursday service at 7:30 p.m. On Good Friday, April 10, Clover and John will lead the noon time service, and then on Easter Sunday, April 12, we will celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Women's Retreat: Reconciling and Rejoicing

Friday, March 27 (7:00 p.m.) - Saturday, 28th (4:00 p.m)

River's Edge Retreat Center in Avon Lake

Come for fellowship, renewal, and good laughter!

\$80 – overnight spaces are limited

Register with pastorbeal@fhcpresb.org

Save these dates

April 18 New Member Potluck

May 3 May Cabaret

May 17 Confirmation

Social Groups and Circles

Hilltoppers (retired singles and couples) Hilltoppers plan to meet on Friday, March 13 at FHC for a (slide) trip to Polynesia. Watch for details!

Heather Circle (retired women) We'll meet for lunch on Tuesday, March 17 at 12:30 at the church.

The Group (singles and couples 50 – 70) The Group will be having a Pot Luck supper at the home of Allan & Zivile Khoury (930 Whorton Park Dr., Mayfield OH) on Saturday, March 7, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. Call Zivile at 440-461-8235 or email zivile@gmail.com to make your reservation and let her know if you will be bringing an entrée, appetizer, salad or dessert.

Iris Circle (all women of the church) We will meet Tuesday March 17, 2009 for a Bible Study led by Rev. Clover Beal. We will meet at the home of Karen Loughridge in Moreland Hills at 7:30 p.m. Come join us for the word of God from the women's point of view.

Christian Education Children and Youth Ministries

February was a busy month as the children and youth explored Jesus' ministry. Our youngest children participated in activities about Jesus' parables and early teachings. The Pathways to the Promise Land children learned about the Beatitudes and the Great Commandment, a simple commandment that is difficult to be faithful to. The Trailblazers are exploring peacemaking and service projects and the Senior High youth are focusing on different religions.

- In our nursery, thank you to Marcia Grant, Christina Hidek, Jen Gilbert, Alexis Smith, Amanda Mervine, Emily Brock and Jessica Klein.
- In our Little Explorers class, thank you to Julie Ann and Robert Yoe.
- In our Children in Worship class, thank you to Kate and David Burleigh, Peter Williams, Sandy Schultz and the mid-high youth.
- In our Pathways to the Promise Land, Eric Muller-Girard, Laurie Logan, Wendy Brock, Traci Ext, Jane Kowall, Lora Smith, Susanne Peterjohn, Robin Mervine, and Chantal Miller.
- In our Trailblazers class, thank you to Laura Steiner and Emily Miller.
- In our Senior High Church School, thank you to Elaine Turley, Ron Schmidt, and Jason Hidek.
- During Descant Choir activity time, thank you to Barry Hartz, Peter Williams, Laurie and Eric Muller Girard, Chuck and Lora Smith, Todd Webster, Jim Roosa, Roger and Consuelo Heineman, and Laura and Kevin Stauffer.

Children's Christian Education

Little Explorers - three/four year olds

Children in Worship-older 4 year olds and kindergarten

During the month of March the children in these classes will be exploring and participating in Bible stories about the parables and Jesus' teachings. Each lesson has an activity response to the story they heard to help them better to understand the meaning. Julie Ann and Robert Yoe will be leading the *Little Explorers* class and Peter Williams will be leading the *Children in Worship* class.

Pathways to the Promise Land - grades 1-5

The next focus for this group is a four week focus of the *Great Commandment*. The *Great Commandment*, found in Matthew, Mark and Luke, put into words the foundational message of Jesus' ministry. The children will participate in an art, movement, cooking and video workshops that will explore this theme.

Youth Ministries

Trailblazers - grades 6 – 8

Galatians 5:13 says "serve one another in love." Our mid-high youth will be participating in service projects and acts of kindness as they explore what it means to serve one another. Sharon Shumaker will be leading this theme.

Senior High Church School - grades 9 – 12

Jason Hidek will lead this group on "what is religion?" Not every person involves themselves in an organized religion, but religion is a part of every human culture. The youth will explore this theme through discussion and attending another faith's worship service. We all our God's children and God speaks to us all.

Confirmation

The Confirmation journey began on a very cold weekend retreat in Vermillion. The youth and their adult mentors have been sharing faith journeys, learning about confessions and beginning to form faith statements. Please keep those involved – Confirmands, Covenant Partners, families and teachers – in your prayers during this journey.

Dates to Know

March 1 Cherub Choir

Pre-School children meet in the Children in Worship room, Room 207, for singing, movement and fun at 10:30.

March 1 Communion

Pathways children (grades 1-5) will begin in their workshops then join their families for Communion.

March 4 Confirmation Bible Study

Confirmands will be meeting in Bodwell Hall at 7:30 for Bible Study.

Faithfully,

Liz Wollaeger

Director of Christian Education

Adult Education Spring, 2009

Who Are We as American Christians?

- March 1 Dr. Joy Bostic, CWRU, Dept of Religious Studies
"The African American Church's Influence on America"
March 8 Dr. Tim Beal
"The Complex American Religious Landscape"

Who Are You?

- March 15 Peg Weissbrod, Elder "Are you gifted? Yes!"
March 22 Tom Zych, Elder "Are you an evangelist?"
March 29 Derry Stauffer, Elder "Are you a prophet?"
April 5 Rev. Clover Beal "Are you a disciple?"
April 12 Easter: No class

There's still time!

KERYGMA Course: Knowing God

7 weeks: Sundays, March 1 – April 19; 5-7 p.m.

Dr. John Lentz will facilitate another Kerygma course this spring! This course considers in some detail what we can know about God who saves a people and is faithful to those people and to the creation in which they live....This course will take us through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. Of course we shall concentrate only on those passages that throw particular light on our theme, Knowing God. The purpose of this course is to help you know the Bible so that it may become an effective resource for your faith. It involves a great deal of study. The importance of the material in relation to understanding the Bible as a whole justifies the extra effort.

Please join us in what promises to be a rewarding study. (No previous course is required.)

Resource book: \$16. To register, contact Rev. Clover, pastorbeal@fhcpresb.org.

Broader Stewardship

The current economic morass has certainly caused us to reappraise and reconsider "value" in all that with which we come into contact. Broader stewardship embraces much that we truly value. We understand that stewardship goes beyond financial responsibility. The Ministry of Stewardship's program is based on the cornerstones of Annual Giving, Earth Stewardship, and Whole Life Stewardship.

The first, Annual Giving, is what drives the FHC operating budget, and we have just completed a successful campaign known as New Consecration Sunday (NCS). We will focus on the Annual Giving program in the second half of the year. For the first half of 2009, we will be exploring how we can nurture our Forest Hill congregation in Earth Stewardship and Whole Life Stewardship.

Earth Stewardship involves ecology, environmentalism, energy conservation, recycling. All buzz words, and everyone is at least slightly familiar with each one. The Stewardship Ministry has a 'call' to assist us in enhancing our Christian-based understanding and actions, which increase our abilities to be good shepherds of our natural resources—animal, vegetable, and mineral.

Whole Life Stewardship applies to our personal physical and mental health and well-being, and it's not a stretch in these trying times to include how we manage our financial health. We'll be looking at ways in which we can provide value in personal health and financial management, perhaps through evening or Saturday morning seminars with outside experts.

Stay tuned!

Dave Neff, Elder
Ministry of Stewardship

Deacons' Corner

The Deacons have some new leaders and CARE groups continue to greet, serve and care for our congregation. Check out your CARE group and see what month in 2009 you will be called on to help – you may find you have a new month and a new leader as well.

January – Ed Briskey – Corinth
February – Doris Allen – Eden
March – Janet Kickel – Mt Sinai
April – Cindy Newton – Nazareth
May – Nancy Burcham – Calvary
June – Mark Waring – Bethlehem
July – Marilyn Wilk – Jordan
August – Cathy Ghiandoni – All Deacons
September – Joy Stang – Canaan
October – Dele Solaru – Jerusalem
November – Jennifer Blakeney – Jericho

Need to know what CARE Group you're in? Call the church office.

Cathy Ghiandoni, Deacon

Help for the Homeless

Members of Forest Hill Church prepared 50 personal care kits for men and women attending InterAct Cleveland's recent Homeless Stand Down. Kits were distributed at three events in January and February attended by more than 2,000 homeless persons. Members of the Ministry of Justice & Mission also volunteered there.

During the last week of February, we are again hosting homeless families at Forest Hill Church through the Interfaith Housing Network. We provide a nutritious supper, evening activities for children, and overnight accommodations in the education wing of our building for those needing shelter.

The Ministry of Justice & Mission wishes to thank all those who are assisting in these efforts on behalf of our homeless guests.

Elder Dick Obermanns



Music

I hope you are planning to attend our 2nd **Swing to the Lord a New Song** concert on Sunday, March 22nd at 7:30 p.m. This evening will feature the Chancel and Sine Nomine Choirs accompanied by a jazz combo led by trombonist Paul Ferguson (my brother) and trumpeter Jack Schantz (he was amazing last year, remember?). Also appearing will be the Heights Barbershop Group, a Cleveland Hts. High School ensemble which many of our FHC members sing in (Jack Lentz, Seth Ungemach, Joseph Register, Jaired Birks, and Caleb Wright). This concert will showcase sacred works written in jazz or gospel styles. Please invite your music-loving friends to this concert!

Five of the six Lenten Sundays fall in March this year, and the music will reflect the more contemplative mood of this liturgical season. The Chancel Choir is preparing movements from the Rutter Requiem and the Faure Requiem. Music at the mid-week Lenten services on March 4th and 18th will be drawn from the Taizé and Iona communities, as well as from cultures around the world.

We will welcome guest organist Carmen Massaro on March 15, as I will be away accompanying the Heights choirs on their tour to New York City. Having the opportunity to play the organs at St. Bartholomew's Church and the Cathedral of St. John the Divine (the largest Gothic church in the world) will be especially thrilling!

Choirs, please note that Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 8th. Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour and go to bed early the night before!

Soli Deo Gloria

Anne Wilson
Director of Music
annew@fhcpresb.org

Sundays in March

9:30 Adult Ed
 Youth Ed
 Descant Choir (gr. 1-5)
 Child care begins
 Confirmation Class

10:15 Descant Choir activity

10:30 Continental Breakfast
 Chancel Choir

11:00 Worship
 Little Explorers (3s, 4s)
 Children in Worship (older 4s, K)

11:15 Pathways (gr. 1-5) 11:00 on Mar. 1 and 15

12:15 Coffee Hour
 Sine Nomine Choir (March 8, 22)

5:00 MOB: Sr High (not March 8 or 29)
 Kerygma
 Faith Leader class

Calendar 12-13

<p>Sunday, March 1 1 Lent 10:15 Cherub Choir 11:00 Worship: Communion 5:00 MOB: Sr High</p>	<p>Genesis 9: 8-17 Psalm 25: 1-10 1 Peter 3: 18-22 Mark 1: 9-15</p>
<p>Sunday, March 8 2 Lent <i>Daylight Savings Time begins: move clocks ahead 1 hour</i> 11:00 Worship 12:15 Teacher Training 5:00 MOB: Sr High</p>	<p>Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16 Psalm 22: 23-31 Romans 4: 13-25 Mark 8: 31-38</p>
<p>Sunday, March 15 3 Lent 11:00 Worship 12:15 Blood pressure check 4:00 Boy Scout awards dinner</p>	<p>Exodus 20: 1-17 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 1: 18-25 John 2: 13-22</p>
<p>Sunday, March 22 4 Lent 11:00 Worship: Reception of New Members 4:00 MOB: Mid High 5:00 MOB: Sr High 7:30 Swing to the Lord a New Song concert</p>	<p>Numbers 21: 4-9 Psalm 107: 1-3, 17-22 Ephesians 2: 1-10 John 3: 14-21</p>
<p>Sunday, March 29 5 Lent 11:00 Worship: Baptism of Nikolas Russo 4:00 MOB: Celebration of Seniors Dinner</p>	<p>Jeremiah 31: 31-34 Psalm 51: 1-12 Hebrews 5: 5-10 John 12: 20-33</p>



News of Our Church Family

New emails

Betty Woodruff bettywoodruff92@gmail.com

The TOWER can be sent to any college student who would like to receive it and who gives us an up-to-date mailing address. Please contact Lynda in the church office and you'll be added to the mailing list.

The Mt. Sinai CARE Group will be responsible for meeting members' needs during March. Please contact the church office in case of illness, hospitalizations, births or deaths (or other family emergencies) in any FHC family.

Members of the Mt. Sinai CARE Group are:

Janet Kickel, Deacon leader	Mary Lewis
Allen Ball	Julie and Gary Lustic
Bob and Joanne Bielek	Dave and Jane Olson
Guy Cameron and family	and family
Betty and Don Clark	Joyce Peters
Sue Conant	Graham and Roz Peters
Ralph and Molly Dise	Jim Picht and Rebecca Martin
Jane Frederick and family	and family
Donna Frey	Sara and Randy Shaner
Sue Gifford and family	Anona Stack
Don and Nancy Grube	Lorian, Ralph and Fran
Barb and Lamont Hansen	Thomas
Jason and Christina Hidek	Ann and Peter Williams
and family	Betty Woodruff
Chuck and Jane Ishler	Warren and Lois Young
Nina Klein	

Ushers for March

Sam Manu, Lead Usher; Nancy Crawford, Amy Davis, George Dean, Muriel Dean, Scott Duncan, Jean Duncan, Audrey Kellermeyer, Scott Peters, Tish Van Beers-Klein, Johanna Wilcott. Sam Manu, Head Usher

New Members Mark Your Calendars

All new and even relatively new FHC members are invited to a potluck dinner hosted by the church growth committee. Event will be held on April 18 at 6 p.m. Be sure to mark your calendars for this night of relaxed fun and festivities. More details to follow.

MOB News for March

Springtime is coming, but before winter is totally over we're taking our **annual ski trip** up to Peek'n Peak slopes in New York! This is on March 7 – 8 for Senior Highs; Mid Highs will ski on March 7.

The scoop

Meet at FHC at 7:30a.m., then we'll load up in cars to drive to Peek'n Peak resort in New York. Spend the day skiing or snowboarding; we'll meet up for lunch (bring your own, or \$10 to buy it there) and then gather one last time for dinner that night.

Mid Highs will leave after dinner on SATURDAY and return to Forest Hill between 9 – 10 p.m. to be picked up by parents. We are hoping for good weather for both skiing and driving, but you never know how long the trip will take if there is snow on the drive home!

Senior Highs will spend the night at the Logans' cabin up there (so much fun!); on SUNDAY morning we'll have breakfast and get on the road. We will be back at Forest Hill by noon.

Prices for ski trip:

Lift ticket & ski/snowboard rental: \$35.00

**Lift ticket only (you already own skis/snowboard):
\$10.00**

Beginner lesson: \$48 Non-beginner lesson: \$59

...bring your own lunch, or \$10 to buy it there!

≠\$25.00 DEPOSIT TO SECURE YOUR SPOT!

YOU MUST CALL LINDSEY BURDETTE

(216)440-2303

IF YOU WANT TO COME

CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE www.fhcpresb.org SEE WHAT'S NEW! 15

You're invited...

Celebration of Seniors Dinner

March 29, 4:00 – 6:00pm.

Join us for our very first evening of sharing memories, great stories, and celebrating our graduating class of 2009.

Attire: please dress nicely
(something you would wear to church).

All Seniors and their families are welcome, as well as all mid and senior high youth.

R.S.V.P. required to attend.

Respond by **March 15** to Lindsey Burdette:

LindseyB@fhcpresb.org

Mid High Events

March 10 and 24: Mid High Bible Study. Meet at FHC, in Lindsey's office from 7 – 8 p.m. Don't forget your Bible! We are following our *Grapple* studies on Identity in Christ.

March 15: MOB Mid High youth group, 4 – 5:30 p.m. Meet in the MOB room at church for a night of games, dinner, and fellowship.

Senior High Events

Your small groups will meet the first and third week of the month—don't know what these are? Call Lindsey to find out how you can get in on our small groups!

March 1, 15, 22: Senior High youth group, 5 – 7 p.m. Meets in the MOB room at FHC.

March 11 & 25: Bible Study for Senior High, 7 – 8 p.m. Bring a couple bucks for coffee, and come hang out with us at Phoenix for an hour... or two.

Lindsey Burdette, Youth Director

16 CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE www.fhcpresb.org SEE WHAT'S NEW!



New FHC Picture Directory

Have you added to your family? Changed your hair color? Changed your address? Whatever changes you have made, we want to be sure to have each of you up to date. So it is time to make a new **Forest Hill Church Directory**.

LifeTouch will photograph all church members and give you a **free family picture** and a **free copy** of the new directory. Of course, if you really like the pictures you have the opportunity to purchase some. This exciting FHC event will take place **March 30 through April 4**, and for those who miss this opportunity, pictures will be taken **June 8, 9, and 10**. This is to accommodate snow birds or children in college. Please help us use this opportunity to update our Church Directory!

You may ask yourself, how do I sign up? There are several ways to take advantage of this. Go to our web page at www.fhcpresb.org or call the church at 216 321-2660 or sign up after church in Fellowship Hall. In addition, if you have any **photographs of events, or groups at church**, please give them or send them to Kris Fay at krisfay@mac.com to be included in the directory. We want to tell the story of how wonderful Forest Hill Church is to all who attend.

Any questions may be directed to Cathy Ghiandoni at cgghiandoni@aol.com or 216 691-1905. We hope that everyone will participate.

Office News and Reminders

The deadline for the weekly bulletin is every Wednesday morning. The deadline for the Tower is usually the second Monday of every month. The **TOWER** schedule is as follows: March 10, April 13, May 11, June 8.

Emails and extensions for the staff are as follows:

- ❖ John Lentz, pastorlentz@fhcpresb.org, ext. 200
- ❖ Clover Beal, pastorbeal@fhcpresb.org, ext 201
- ❖ Anne Wilson (music), annew@fhcpresb.org, ext 208
- ❖ CE Office: Liz Wollaeger, lizw@fhcpresb.org; ext. 206
- ❖ Marge Kaercher, margek@fhcpresb.org; ext. 204
- ❖ Lindsey Burdette (youth): lindseyb@fhcpresb.org, ext 207
- ❖ Becky Austin (financial office): beckya@fhcpresb.org, ext. 203
- ❖ Lynda Bernays (office administrator), and all other email: office@fhcpresb.org, ext. 202

Our website is www.fhcpresb.org

CDs of the worship service are available each week. Often they are available soon after worship. If you miss that, call or email the church office, or leave a note, and the CD will be in the volunteer office the following Sunday. The cost is \$1 per CD.

Would you like a large-print edition of the **TOWER**? Or a bulletin sent to you if you are ill or away? Please contact the church office with your request.

Sunday flower donations are coordinated by the church office. Please call or email Lynda for information about donating an arrangement. The cost is \$20 per arrangement.

From the Financial office: Pledge contributions and other income

	Jan. 09	YTD
Actual	\$84, 231	\$84,231
Budget	86,919	86,919

Source: Jan. 09 Activity Statements and 09 Budget

**Make your donation to FHC one of your regular on-line banking payments!
It's free, easy, and convenient for you
and very helpful to the church**

Wanted: Sound and Light Board Operator

For Sunday worship and special services and programs

Interested in running our sound and light boards?

Training provided
Previous experience celebrated but not required
Open to those mid-high and older

Commitment: You would be responsible for sitting up in the balcony and making sure that sound and light are set and running well for services (perhaps a dozen or so worship services a year). Manage both live and recorded sound. Arrive 15 - 20 minutes prior to the service to ensure equipment is turned on and properly set; stay 5 minutes after service to copy CD.

Opportunity to make \$\$\$ during weddings and special events

Contact the church office to sign up or for more details.

**A Brief History of Forest Hill:
The Rockefeller Estate**

The site of Forest Hill Church was originally part of the Rockefeller Estate. The recent history of Forest Hill Park begins in 1853 when 13-year old John D. Rockefeller moved to Cleveland, OH, from western New York. By 1870, when Rockefeller organized the Standard Oil Company, Cleveland was an industrial giant among American cities.

In 1873, Rockefeller purchased 109 acres of rural land east of Cleveland's clutter and smoke. The front of the property was along Euclid Avenue in East Cleveland and extended into the city of Cleveland Heights. In 1913, Rockefeller purchased another 100 acres and a few years later, other small parcels were added to the estate, bringing the total property to 267 acres.

Rockefeller sold his original parcel in 1877 to the Euclid Avenue Forest Hill Association for a commercial sanitarium. In 1880, the sanitarium became a private club for Rockefeller and his friends, but it lasted only one year and the building was remodeled into a summer home for the Rockefellers. They named the house Homestead and used it from June until mid-September every year until 1915 when Mrs. Rockefeller died. In 1917, Homestead burned to the ground.

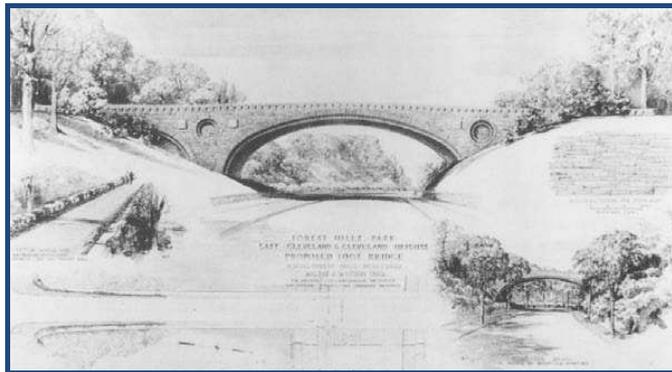
John D. Rockefeller created carriage paths following the contours of the land and even made them longer than they needed to be so they would emerge at the most spectacular spot on the property. He built beautiful stone bridges over ravines using stone quarried on the property. An attractive nine-hole golf course was laid out on a plateau where the FHC facility now stands and bridle paths were built so he could race his horses.

In 1923, Rockefeller left the disposition of the estate to his son, selling him all his real estate holdings in Cleveland, East Cleveland, and Cleveland Heights for \$2.8 million. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., gradually gave or sold portions of Forest Hill to provide sites for Huron Road Hospital, Kirk Junior High School, and a Masonic hall, and to provide for the widening of existing streets bordering the estate.

Beyond Acceptance

A monthly support group for individuals and families dealing with gender and sexual identity issues and the Christian Church's acceptance of Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual, and Transgendered persons is held the **fourth Tuesday of each month at 5:30 pm at Fairmount Presbyterian Church in the Chilcote North Room.** This group, called "Beyond Acceptance," provides an atmosphere of safety and confidentiality for open and genuine sharing and discussion around these issues. Members and friends of Forest Hill Church who are dealing with these issues are cordially invited to join this open group for understanding, acceptance and support. For further information, contact the Rev. Richard Clewell at (216) 321-5800, ext. 109.

In the late 1920s, John D. Rockefeller Jr. built eighty-one French Norman-style houses and a business block (all of which now are on the National Register) before the onset of the Depression and the collapse of the real estate market. Rockefeller gave 235 acres to the cities of East Cleveland and Cleveland Heights that is to forever be parkland. East Cleveland received about two-thirds of the land and Cleveland Heights the remainder. Rockefeller also gave the cities a plan for the development of the park by noted Cleveland landscape architect Albert Davis Taylor. Taylor was the president of the American Society of Landscape Architects and a protégé of Frederick Law Olmstead, the father of American Landscape Architecture, who designed many other significant parks across the United States.



Using labor paid for mainly by funds from the Works Progress Administration, East Cleveland and Cleveland Heights proceeded to develop the estate into a public park according to the Taylor plan. It included forested, secluded areas; lovely open vistas; and active recreational areas, mostly on the perimeter of the park. Lawn bowling was popular, so two lawn bowling greens and a pavilion were included in the plan. Tennis courts, baseball fields, picnic facilities, comfort stations, trails (mostly following those laid out by Rockefeller), a boat house and lagoon and many other features were part of the design.

In 1939 alone, 1,000 people were employed to create just part of the East Cleveland portion of the park. Work was begun on the Dugway Brook culvert and construction of the footbridge across Forest Hills Boulevard. Storm sewers were built, land graded and buildings started. By the time the war broke out in 1941, 13,000 shrubs and another 13,000 small trees had been planted and the existing A. D. Taylor plan structures were virtually complete.

An excerpt from
Forest Hill Church Assessment of Existing Conditions

Oliver Design Group

Food Cupboard Notes

Thank you to all who have brought donations for the food cupboard

We have received several very generous donations that have allowed me to buy grocery certificates and 5-ride fare cards.

Please remember that those with very little are to first to feel the effects of hard times.

Share your abundance with a bag of groceries!

Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

Matthew 25: 37-40

Psalm 25 (appointed for Lent 1, Sunday March 1)

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.

Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O LORD!

Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

(NRSV)

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